

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE

SITUATION REPORT # 7

1600 Hours October 14, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

WEATHER

Forecast:

Mostly to partly cloudy, with high temperatures in the low 70's. Winds N-NW from 9-15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10%, except in Northern Virginia where there is a 50% chance of precipitation. Southwest Virginia has a 0% chance of precipitation.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation:

The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition and augmented with additional staffing.

State of Emergency:

On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage.

The Governor directed limited activation of the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) and the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) to coordinate the provision of assistance to the impacted localities.

Local Situation:

Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

STATE AGENCIES

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

A VDEM Reservist is on site at the Wise County Command to assist with logistics and finance.

Cost estimates from state agencies are due today, with projections out to November 30, 2005.

At the request of the locality, VDEM Public Affairs Office completed an information flier to be posted in local business establishments.

The VDEM Hazardous Materials Officer and VDEM Local Support Services Division Director are coordinating with Wise County, the Town of Big Stone Gap, and state/local agencies to identify needed resources and continue logistical support.

The VDEM Legislative Liaison is providing information to local General Assembly members representing the locality and Congressman Boucher's office.

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies and compiling a list of available resources. The VEOC is polling communities throughout Southwest Virginia to anticipate long-term drought conditions. The VEOC is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies and will serve as the receiving agent for actual and anticipated state agency expenses.

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

The local Health Department completed the assessment of special needs population in the area. ***A total of 256 individuals with special needs have been identified.***

The VDH inspected approximately 30 permitted food establishments in Big Stone Gap to review operations during water shortage and to plan for water outage. ***VDH***

distributed guidelines for food establishment operators on operating without water. Food Service Establishments will provide written plans to VDH for continued operation without water.

The VDH is preparing kits for personal care workers/Home Health and home delivered meals that contain water suitable for disabled populations, baby wipes and sanitizer.

The Virginia Department of Health Roanoke Regional Public Information Officer (PIO) is on scene to coordinate public information dissemination. The VDH PIO is drafting a Public Service Announcement today concerning the hazards associated with connecting a Home Water System on your own, and developing a flyer to offer suggestions for sanitation and hygiene without running water.

The Office of Drinking Water has offered to help the Town of Big Stone Gap test water.

VDH will be inspecting food vendors at Mountain Empire Community College's (MECC) Home Craft Day Festival. All food vendors will be using bottled water. Hand sanitizer's and wipes will be available for employees and the public.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) has been put on alert for possible activation to assist the special needs shelter.

Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (VDMHMRAS)

Polly Summit and Pierce House Group Home residents are being re-located to Camp Bethel, in Wise County.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

Six of the water blivets delivered by the VNG are expected to be operational by October 15, 2005. The blivet at the special needs shelter is expected to be operational by October 16, 2005. The VNG picked up 88 pallets of bottled water to go with the 44 pallets already located at the Big Stone Gap Armory.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

The VDOC is working with the Town of Big Stone Gap on a system to refill and maintain blivets.

Handling delivery of 40,000 gallons potable water for bladders located at nursing home and hospital.

The VDOC has personnel and equipment on stand-by to assist with water distribution and other commodities, if necessary.

State Fire Marshal's Office

The SFMO is advising local authorities on jurisdictional concerns and technical alternatives. The SFMO developed a guidance policy for the local fire marshal to distribute to facilities regarding deficient water supply for fire sprinkler systems.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

The DEQ issued temporary permit for water withdrawal out of Powell River not to exceed 1 Million gallons per day on Friday, October 7, 2005.

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

The 2 VDOT portable message boards remain on US Highway 23 exit ramps leading into Big Stone Gap, stating "serious water shortage, please conserve water".

Department of General Services/Consolidated Labs

Continues to test water samples from alternate water sources.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

The Wise County Board of Supervisors agreed to request the Governor of Virginia put into effect an Open Burning Ban for Wise County as soon as possible.

The Norton Line is producing 100,000 gallons of water per day, short of the hoped 250,000 gallons per day. A boil water advisory notice was issued to

customers in the Powell Valley area being served by the new Norton/Big Stone Gap interconnect until test results are complete.

Big Stone Gap continues to purchase water from Duffield (Scott County) and Pennington Gap (Lee County). Wise County and Big Stone Gap are seeking alternative water sources.

The Town of Big Stone Gap leased a portable water processing plant to produce potable water from the Powell River, and it is expected to be operational by the close of business October 14, 2005. A second plant is on order with delivery expected on October 21, 2005.

Obtaining water from the cave located below the water treatment plant is not feasible. It is not currently feasible to obtain water from Bullitt Mine either, due to the high concentration of Sodium. Sources to alleviate the Sodium concentration are being investigated. Samples from Clinch Haven Farms Well have been submitted for testing, and results are expected next week. Daily water samples are being collected from 4 blivets and Wallen's Ridge Prison for bacteriological and residual chlorine testing. The Public School System will conduct testing on the 3 blivets placed at Powell Valley Schools.

The Mountain Empire Older Citizens building will be a distribution point for Home Health Care to pick up bottled water today and tomorrow. Saturday hours are 0830 a.m. to 0930 a.m. Mountain Empire Older Citizens agency began distributing water in conjunction with the delivery of Meals on Wheels today.

NESTLE water has donated 4,500 one gallon, and 12,000 ½ liter bottles of water, with delivery expected late October 17 or early October 18, 2005.

County GIS is supplying maps as requested.

Daily meetings are being conducted at Wise County Command Center located at the local Health Department with local/state agencies.

The Department of Social Services will set up a special needs shelter at the East Stone Gap Baptist Church. The shelter will open when the need arises.

MECC has purchased gravel to provide a turning area for trucks delivering water.

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